

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIEP-03

SAM-01 DRC-01 /157 W

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1265

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0631

TEHRAN PASS TABRIZ

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: KURDISH WAR IN IRAQ

REF: TABRIZ 020

1. WISH TO MAKE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON EXCELLENT TABRIZ
REFTEL WHICH IS BY FAR MOST COMPLETE ACCOUNT I HAVE SEEN
OF IRAQI AUGUST OFFENSIVE AGAINST KURDS.

2. INFORMATION FROM MILITARY ATTACHES HERE AGREES THAT
VIRTUALLY ENTIRE IRAQI ARMY, WITH EXCEPTION OF TWO BRIGADES
IN BAGHDAD AND TWO IN BASRA, IS ENGAGED IN KURDISH OFFENSIVE
IN ATTEMPT TO FINISH OFF BARZANI BEFORE WINTER. THERE ARE,
HOWEVER, PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT KURDS HAVE ALREADY RETAKEN
QALA DEZEH, ARE THREATENING RAWANDUZ AND THAT OFFENSIVE
HAS GROUND TO HALT. MOST POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS NEW

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INFORMATION IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT IRANIAN ARMY

UNITS MOVED UP TO BORDER IN QALA DEZEH AREA AND GAVE
HEAVY FIRE POWER SUPPORT TO KURDS WITH 175 MM ARTILLERY.

3. USUALLY WELL INFORMED INDIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
BELIEVES TU-22S ARE NOT NOW BEING USED EXTENSIVELY
SINCE IRAQI CREWS ARE BEING TRAINED ON THEM BY RUSSIANS
AT HABBANIYAH. IRAQI ARMOR BEING UTILIZED INCLUDES NOT
JUST T-55S BUT NEWER SOVIET T-62 TANKS. INDIANS ALSO
SAY THEY HAVE JUST SIGNED CONTRACT TO FILL URGENT ORDER
FROM IRAQI ARMY FOR GALOSHES AND WINTER GEAR SUFFICIENT
FOR 150,000 MEN. IRAQIS READY TO SENT SPECIAL SHIP TO
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. QUANTITIES ORDERED GIVE CREDENCE TO REPORT
THAT GOI MAKING INCREASED USE OF SOUTHER TRIBES AS PARAMILITARY
FORCE.

4. REGIME APPEARS TO BE INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE
KURDISH REPRISALS IN BAGHDAD. ROAD PAST MAIN WATERWORKS HAS
BEEN BLOCKED OFF AND GUARDS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON NEW POINTS,
INCLUDING APARTMENT BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY RUSSIAN
TECHNICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO
DROVE TO KIRKUK SEPT 16 NOTED UNUSUALLY HEAVY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS
ALONG MAIN ROAD AND REINFORCEMENT OF TROOPS AROUND
OIL INSTALLATIONS.

5. COMMENT: CONCLUSION OF MOST OBSERVERS HERE IS THAT
OFFENSIVE IS UNLIKELY TO ACCOMPLISH PURPOSE BEFORE WINTER:
FIGHTING WILL SLOW DOWN AND IRAQIS WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW
FROM FORWARD POSITIONS AS THEY DID AFTER OFFENSIVES IN
1960S; AND OFFENSIVE WILL BE RENEWED NEXT SPRING. DURING
WINTER, MAIN IRAQI AIM EXPECTED TO BE TO MAKE THINGS AS DIFFICULT
AS POSSIBLE FOR BARZANI, ATTEMPT TO INTERDICT SUPPLIES
AND HEAVY ARMS FROM COMING IN FROM IRAN, AND TRY TO PUT SOME
LIFE INTO HERETOFORE MORIBUND ANTI-BARZANI KURDISH FORCE.
I CAN OBTAIN NO CONFIRMATION OF BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS THAT
NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REOPENED BETWEEN GOI AND BARZANI.

6. IF REPORT OF USE OF IRANIAN ARTILLERY IS TRUE IT WOULD SEEM TO
REPRESENT MAJOR ESCALATION OF IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR KURDS
AND INCREASE LIKLYHOOD OF MAJOR BORDER FIGHTING.

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